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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

February 26, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 946 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, POSTURING AT THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL, AND THE UAE AT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
CONFERENCE
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00946

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: DCM POL AMB ECON
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

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OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #0946/01 0571250
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 261250Z FEB 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8560
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0580
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0643
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000946

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD, NEA/RA, INR
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, POSTURING AT THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL, AND THE UAE AT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

11. SUMMARY: COVERAGE RELATED TO IRAQ CONTINUED TO GENERATE

PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. UAE DAILIES LARGELY COVERED UAE'S PARTICIPATION AT THE NAM CONFERENCE AND ITS CALL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL UNSC RESOLUTIONS REGARDING IRAQ AND PALESTINE. EDITORIALS CONTINUED TO LAUD THE FRENCH-GERMAN POSITION AT THE UN AND CRITICIZE ARAB INACTION IN THE FACE OF AN IMPENDING ATTACK ON IRAQ. END SUMMARY.

¶2. COMMENTING ON ARAB, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, AND GERMAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ANTICIPATED WAR ON IRAQ, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 2/26:

"... STOPPING THE BLOODSHED OF IRAQIS, PALESTINIANS, OR EVEN ARABS IN GENERAL IS ONE OF THE DEFINITE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ARAB COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH-RUSSIAN-GERMAN POSITION REGARDING THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE PRODUCTIVE IF NOT BACKED WITH A SINCERE ARAB STAND. THIS SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF AN ARAB SUMMIT DURING THIS CRITICAL PHASE."

¶3. COMMENTING ON ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ANTICIPATED WAR ON IRAQ, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 2/26:

"... THE ARAB SUMMIT (WHICH NO ONE KNOWS WILL SEE THE LIGHT OR NOT) FACES OPPOSITION AND CONFLICT AMONG ITS MEMBERS EVEN BEFORE IT OCCURS. THIS IS A CONFLICT AMONG THE HANDICAPPED. THEREFORE, WHETHER THE SUMMIT TAKES PLACE OR NOT, WHETHER IT'S POSTPONED OR NOT, WILL NOT AFFECT OR CHANGE THE CURRENT SITUATION, SINCE ARABS LACK THE POWER OR THE WILL TO MAKE A DECISION. THEY HAVE ALREADY ABANDONED THEIR WILLPOWER AND EVEN THEIR DIGNITY. WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IS MERELY (LIKE) 'PLAYING IN OVERTIME.'"

¶4. NOTING A U.S. DOUBLE STANDARD ON ISRAEL'S USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS IN PALESTINE VERSUS SADDAM'S CALL FOR HUMAN SHIELDS IN IRAQ, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 2/25:

"... THE ISRAELI CRIMES COMMITTED IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE WORLD ARE CONSIDERED SELF DEFENSE ACTIONS BY THE U.S., WHICH SUPPORTS THE ATTACKS ... THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE HERE IS NOT SURPRISING, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE WORLDWIDE ANTI-WAR PROTESTS IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY ARE NOT AN ISSUE TO WORRY ABOUT. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS DEFENDING THE IRAQI PEOPLE A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY, WHEREAS CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS ARE HUMANE ACTIONS DESERVING PRESIDENT BUSH'S NOMINATION OF SHARON FOR A NOBLE PEACE PRIZE ... ERASING A SEVEN-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CIVILIZATION IS YET ANOTHER TECHNIQUE ADOPTED BY AMERICA. BUSH COMPARES ARABS TO 'RED INDIANS' AND BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND."

¶5. DESCRIBING AN AMERICAN INTENTION TO DOMINATE THE WORLD, DR. MOHAMMED ALI AL-FARRA WROTE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL-ITTIHAD" 2/25:

"IT'S A BIG MISTAKE TO THINK THAT THE REASONS BEHIND THE GULF WAR AGAINST IRAQ IN 1991 WERE ITS OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN 1990, OR THAT THE INTENTIONS OF THE ANTICIPATED WAR AGAINST IRAQ ARE DISARMING IT OF WMD AND CHANGING ITS REGIME. THE TRUE REASONS ARE PART OF A LARGER SCENARIO THAT DATES BACK TO THE 1973 WAR ... THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS WHAT IT CALLS 'SAFE HAVENS FOR TERRORISM' OR 'ROGUE STATES' AS MOST PROBABLY THE SAME MAIN POWER RESOURCES IN THE WORLD, WHICH LATELY INCLUDES VENEZUELA SINCE IT IS THE LARGEST OIL-PRODUCING NATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE ... THE MAP OF THE OIL AND GAS LINES IN THE REGION CONNECT THE BALKANS WITH AFGHANISTAN, WHICH EXPLAINS AMERICA'S INTERFERENCE IN KOSOVO'S WAR WHICH WAS NOT (AS THOUGHT BY MANY) TO SUPPORT MUSLIMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PETROLEUM PIPELINES TO WESTERN EUROPE MUST GO THROUGH THE BALKANS. THERE WAS A SUGGESTION TO HAVE A LINE STARTING FROM BURGAS IN BULGARIA THROUGH SKOPJE IN MACEDONIA TO VLORE SEAPORT IN ALBANIA. A HUGE AMERICAN MILITARY BASE 'BOND STEEL CAMP' WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE YEAR 1999 SOUTH OF KOSOVO, WHICH WAS RUN BY AN OIL COMPANY MANAGED BY U.S. VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY."

¶6. DISCUSSING WORLD OPINION OF THE U.S., "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 2/24:

"ALL INDICATIONS IN THE WORLD, SUCH AS THE PROTESTS OF SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE IN OVER 600 CITIES A WEEK AGO, PUBLIC OPINION

OPPOSING WASHINGTON'S POLICIES, AND THE SITUATION FACING THE U.S. IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AS THE MAJORITY OF THE 15-MEMBER COUNCIL ARE AGAINST WAR, CONFIRM WITH NO DOUBT THAT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION OPPOSED U.S. POLICIES. ALL THESE REASONS ILLUSTRATE AN INTERNATIONAL OPINION THAT IS ANTI-WAR ... THE IMAGE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS GETTING WORSE DAY AFTER DAY FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF ITS CREDIBILITY. THE MOST RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS PUBLISHED IN THE SUNDAY TIMES, A BRITISH NEWSPAPER, SAY THAT HALF OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE CONSIDER BUSH A BIG THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WORLD. ALSO, 47 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION VIEW THE U.S. AS A DOMINATING POWER WHILE (IN A SEPARATE POLL) 54 PERCENT DO NOT EVEN LIKE IT."

WAHBA